

requests within each individual request that the school district estimated would take nearly 5,000 hours at enormous cost to the schools and to taxpayers (and again, time and money diverted away from serving children). These requests included demands for all emails, personnel records related to individual teachers, and records that contain personal information, including the home addresses and medical information of numerous teachers and educators in the school system.

Also left unsaid is that Rhode Island's APRA explicitly protects the disclosure of information about "individuals maintained in the files of public bodies when disclosure would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." This is an important fact that should not be ignored. One APRA request could have asked for the curriculum, as Solas claimed that she wanted, but that was accompanied with hundreds of other requests: many of which would invade of personal privacy of targeted teachers and other educators in schools. We would urge the Committee to not try to make Solas the "poster adult" for parental engagement. She is not.

Furthermore, Congress should be more discerning with respect to the types of behaviors that it finds acceptable. Supreme Court Justice Warren Berger explains, "Even the most heated political discourse in a democratic society requires consideration for the personal sensibilities of the other participants and audiences. In our Nation's legislative halls, where some of the most vigorous political debates in our society are carried on, there are rules prohibiting the use of expressions offensive to other participants in the debate."

For example, Congress would not allow the behaviors exhibited in footnote 16 to take place as it attempts to conduct its own congressional business. Thus, it is unreasonable to expect school boards and educators to subject themselves to extremely unproductive behavior as cited in footnote 16 when Congress would never tolerate the same. Threats of violence and intimidation are threats to democracy. Instead, Congress should promote discourse and civility.

Again, we strongly support the critical importance that parents have in the upbringing and education of their children. Unfortunately, we believe there is language in H.R. 5 that would prove to be unnecessarily detrimental to the education, health, privacy, and well-being of children. We urge you to go back to the drawing board and work with educational and child and family organizations to improve and rebalance the focus of this legislation, and to remember that children have fundamental rights too.

Rather than a self-centered agenda focused upon parents, the vast majority of parents really want what is best for their children. They do not accept that, as a nation, the U.S. ranks 36th out of 38 wealthy nations on measures of child well-being. They demand that we do better by children. That should be all of our focus.

As such, parents are far more interested and focused on improving education, child health, and reducing child poverty, hunger, and homelessness than book bans, censorship, the whitewashing of history and science, and the excessive filing of numerous records requests for personal and confidential information about school teachers.

Let's work together toward those goals.

Sincerely,

BRUCE LESLEY,
President.

PARENTS BILL OF RIGHTS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT FITZGERALD

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2023

Mr. FITZGERALD. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 5, the Parents Bill of Rights. Our students are the future. They need support, particularly parental support. However, school administrators have decided to undermine this support by keeping parents from getting involved in their own children's education, teaching divisive curriculum, and protecting themselves from accountability.

It is abundantly clear that parents want to be involved. In fact, just the other day in Wisconsin, the School District of Waukesha approved a resolution that established parents' rights and transparency. In this resolution, the school board affirms their commitment to parents, protection for students' religious and moral beliefs from discrimination, and keeping controversial issues out of the classroom.

There is an innate need for parental involvement in education, which is why I strongly support H.R. 5. In fact, my own bill, the CRT Transparency Act, is included in this legislation. This important bill requires schools to post their curriculums online so that parents can see what their students are being taught. Parents across the nation are seeing violations of their rights and their important role replaced. We must pass H.R. 5 to protect parents' right to be heard and put our children first.

COMMENDING HAKELA HAPNER ON HER WORK FOR ALABAMA DISTRICT ONE

HON. JERRY L. CARL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 2023

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hakela Hapner for her service to Alabama's First Congressional District.

Hakela received her Bachelor's degree in History and Business Law from the University of Southern California. After graduating, she was hired by the Institute for Justice as a Mafucci Fellow and then as an Activism Assistant. I then hired her in September of 2021 as a Legislative Correspondent, where she managed the mail program and was soon promoted to Military Legislative Assistant.

Hakela handled the National Defense Authorization Act, Veterans Affairs, Science and Space, Homeland Security, Oversight and Government Reform, Energy and Water Development, Food and Drug Administration, Rural Development, Agriculture Appropriations, and State and Foreign Operations Appropriations. Hakela stepped up and took the lead on my community funding requests and general appropriation requests. She has been a force for Alabama's First District during her time holding these positions.

We are so proud of all the accomplishments she has made, and I cannot wait to see where the next adventure takes her.

RECOGNIZING TRIPLE NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CAROL D. MILLER

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 2023

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, triple negative breast cancer is an aggressive breast cancer and patients with undiagnosed metastatic TNBC have a less than 30 percent chance of surviving past five years. Unlike other breast cancers, TNBC is more difficult to treat. There are limited therapies available specifically addressing the management of TNBC, which has made treating this disease a challenge for clinicians. In my home state of West Virginia, the breast cancer mortality rate among women is the 8th highest in the U.S. The prevalence of TNBC in West Virginia is 13 percent, and studies have found links between obesity and TNBC patients in the state. It is imperative to increase the overall wellness of our population, especially for women suffering from a disease as invasive as TNBC. That's why we need more research and access to care in West Virginia to catch this disease early. We need to work together not just this month, but every month, to maintain momentum to improve early diagnosis, treatment planning, cancer typing, and research to help all those affected by TNBC.

HONORING THE SPIRITED LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE OF DEBBIE KIEVITS

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a Connecticut hero, Ms. Debbie Kievits of Norwich. As the founder of Norwich Bully Busters, Debbie has been relentless in her leadership behind a local anti-bullying campaign for more than two decades. Debbie will be honored this weekend in Norwich following her recognition in USA Today as Connecticut's 2023 Woman of the Year.

Debbie Kievits has long stood firm in her faith of youth empowerment. In 2000, following a string of unfortunate bullying incidents that also impacted her own family, Debbie envisioned an opportunity to improve her community. She took charge and began to engage with fellow parents. In doing so, Debbie came to understand that reducing bullying amongst youth is a constant battle that requires town-wide buy-in. She obviously continues to courageously pursue this fight today.

Following the incidents in 2000, Debbie felt inspired to implement her own vision after engaging with parents and groups like Youth Against Bullying. She created Norwich Bully Busters, a volunteer-based organization missioned toward sharing a simple message: "Kindness is magical."

At the time this group might have been viewed as benign but peripheral to school development. In 2023, we now understand how the problems Debbie identified are the central challenge to public education today, mainly fostering safe and healthy learning environments. The push to strengthen the behavioral

health services in 2023 is honestly a follow-on to Debbie's visionary leadership.

Over the years, Norwich Bully Busters has perfected utilizing cost-effective strategies to engineer the spread of positivity within a community. When she became inspired with the idea of "Buddy Benches," as a platform for students to meet new friends on the playground, Debbie activated her network of volunteers to help construct and then paint welcoming backdrops on benches. By way of her positive, purposeful engagement, there are now more than 80 Buddy Benches placed throughout Norwich schools. By way of another example, Debbie has remained a constant presence in the Norwich school system, hosting conversations with students and teachers in the classroom.

There are countless more cases of Debbie acting as a source of light for Norwich youth. Norwich Bully Busters eventually evolved to establish summer programming, led by Debbie, which combines community service, activities, and ideas for future careers. As a matter of fact, Norwich's newly elected State Representative Derell Wilson grew up participating in this summer program. When another student felt their passion to pursue arts over summer vacation was turned down, Debbie's response was, "What do you need?" And so, she provided that student with a space to develop and ultimately lead an arts program amongst other peers. Their production was performed at Norwich's local theatre, and that student now has a history of working on Broadway. Clearly, Debbie and her organization have had a lasting impact upon those who have grown up in Norwich.

Debbie has also used her position through Norwich Bully Busters to stir anti-bullying conversations well outside Norwich. She again activated her network to push the envelope at the Connecticut legislature, which has since enacted laws including An Act Concerning School Learning Environments and An Act Concerning Behavior in Schools. The latter of those two laws specifically requires boards of education to develop policies on bullying, and I can assure you Debbie played a part in the establishment of Norwich public schools' policy for bullying behavior.

Mr. Speaker, Debbie continues to build upon the altruistic energy that stands behind Norwich Bully Busters. She has created a self-nurturing support system, comprised of individuals who have been socialized to understand that actions matter, the infectious power that exists through positive engagement, and are now pursuing their own visions of community development. Debbie is the definition of what it means to be a first generation American. We are forever indebted to her service. To that end, Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Debbie's legacy of leadership.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GAIL MOORE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of a very respected member of our beloved Bucks County, Gail Moore.

Born in 1946, Gail grew up in Levittown, Pennsylvania and enjoyed a successful career as a Registered Nurse at Lower Bucks Hospital as part of the surgical, IV, and home health care teams. She went on to serve as the Director of Claims at United Healthcare. After her nursing career, Gail continued to be a beacon of light in the healthcare industry, opening her own business providing care for women suffering from cancer.

Gail married her high school sweetheart, Zane Edward Moore, while he was serving in the U.S. Army, and they have two sons, Zane Edward Moore, Jr. and Christopher Stephen Moore. She is also survived by her five loving grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself, my family, and our entire staff, we send our deepest condolences to Gail's family and all who knew and loved her. Gail will be deeply missed and remembered for her love and devotion to her family, friends, and her community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SENATOR JIM BROYHILL

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Senator Jim Broyhill. Sadly, Senator Broyhill recently passed away on February 18, 2023.

After graduating from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1950, Senator Broyhill began his career working for his family's furniture company, Broyhill Furniture Industries. He was first elected to Congress in 1962 as the representative for North Carolina's ninth congressional district, the district I am honored to represent today. He served the ninth district from 1963 to 1969. He also represented North Carolina's tenth district from 1969 to 1986 before he was appointed to represent North Carolina in the U.S. Senate in 1986. Over the course of his more than 23 years in Congress, Senator Broyhill was known for his dedicated constituent service and efforts to work across the aisle to achieve results for North Carolina and our nation. He served on the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, the Post Office and Civil Service Committee, and the Small Business Committee in the House of Representatives and the Armed Services Committee and the Judiciary Committee in the Senate. He rose to become the ranking Republican member on the House Interstate and Foreign Service Committee and was awarded "Watchdog of the Treasury" by the National Association for Small Business each year that he was in Congress. After his time as a federal legislator, Senator Broyhill remained dedicated to serving the people of North Carolina. Among his many impressive achievements, he served as the Chairman of the North Carolina Board of Economic Development and the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

I would like to extend my most heartfelt appreciation in recognition of Senator Broyhill as we honor his extraordinary life. Through his exceptional leadership and dedicated service to North Carolina and our nation, he set an excellent example for all in public service to emulate. Senator Broyhill was an important

mentor and friend to many elected leaders in North Carolina, including myself. I am greatly appreciative of the wisdom and guidance he provided me over the years. I know I speak for our entire community in extending my condolences to Senator Broyhill's family and many friends. His legacy of service will live on forever.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring the life and legacy of Senator Jim Broyhill for his exemplary service and exceptional commitment to North Carolina and our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 2023

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the vote today for the Green Amendment No. 10, I would have voted "aye." Had I been present for the Jacobs Amendment No. 13, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for the Massie Amendment No. 15, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for the McCormick Amendment No. 17, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for the Roy Amendment No. 19, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for the Roy Amendment No. 20, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for the Democratic Motion to Recommit on H.R. 5, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for the vote on H.R. 5, I would have voted "no." This legislation is misleadingly titled as "Parents Bill of Rights" while ignoring the partnerships that already exist between parents and educators. Further, it dismisses educators' experience and dedication to their students at a time where our country is facing shortages. It will exacerbate censorship at a time when the American Library Association already reported a 38 percent increase in book banning. Lastly, but most importantly, this legislation creates a more harmful environment for students. Every student in every community deserves access to high-quality public education and to feel safe at school regardless of race, gender identity, religion, or sexuality.

Additionally, had I been present for the vote on H. Con. Res. 25, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING TRIPLE NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER MONTH

HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 2023

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, as a congresswoman, and a champion of health care initiatives, and as a voice for breast cancer survivors, a disease that affects minority women and all women, I am here today to talk about the pressing need for increased funding for triple-negative breast cancer. Breast cancer is a devastating disease that affects far too many of us. But triple-negative breast cancer, in particular, is one of the most aggressive and deadly forms of breast cancer.

Women with triple-negative breast cancer often face a worse prognosis and limited treatment options. This is why we need to increase